

Tada slated for Feb. 28 Heath Conf.

JACKSON, Ms (Special) — Due to the response to the Feb. 28 Health Conference in Jackson featuring keynote speaker Joni Eareckson Tada, the other scheduled Health Conferences during the months of January and February have been cancelled so that everyone who wishes to hear Tada will be able to attend the Feb. 28 gathering.

The cancelled Health Conferences are Jan. 17, Jan. 24, Jan. 31, and Feb. 7.

Tada, a Christian and founder/chief executive officer of Joni and Friends International Disability Center in Agoura Hills, Ca., is a popular and well-known international advocate for people with disabilities.

A diving accident at the age of 17 left her a quadriplegic. In 2003, she wrote her memoir, *The God I Love*. Her latest book, *A Place of Healing*, recounts her journey through physical pain and questions concerning prayer for healing.

"I have been wonderfully amazed at how God is bringing Joni Eareckson Tada to Mississippi in 2014. Before Christmas last year, I was watching the Mike Huckabee Show [on FoxNews television network] and saw Joni and her husband as one of his special guests," said Steve Stone, associate executive director for church growth at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, and coordinator of the conference.

"I was moved by her testimony and how she is fighting breast cancer on top of everything she has experienced in her life. I began to think what a blessing it would be to have her in Mississippi in light of our 2014 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board theme: 'In the Name of Jesus... Rise Up: Physically, Spiritually, Intellectually, and Emotionally,' based on Acts 3:6, 16.

"We are extremely excited about Joni coming and sharing with us, and wanted to invite



TADA

'Win for religious liberty'

GuideStone gains injunction in mandate battle

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP and local reports) — U.S. federal district judge Timothy DeGiusti issued a preliminary injunction in Oklahoma City on Dec. 20 against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate that requires employers, including many religiously affiliated ones, to provide abortion-causing drugs and devices under the provisions of Obamacare.

GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Dallas and formerly known as the Annuity Board, is the named plaintiff in the lawsuit opposing the mandate that was filed by the Dallas law firm of Locke Lord LLP in conjunction with the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C.

The case is *GuideStone v. Sebelius*. Kathleen Sebelius is the HHS secretary.

Although churches and closely related ministries are exempt from the mandate, many Christian universities, children's homes, and other ministries such as GuideStone are not exempt from the mandate and instead are in danger of being forced to provide abortion-causing drugs and



"A government that can coerce the conscience is a government that has overstepped its God-appointed bounds. We are thankful for Guidestone and the Gospel grit of President O.S. Hawkins. We're still early in this fight but this is good news."

Russell D. Moore

president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

devices through a poorly-conceived "accommodation," or incur crippling penalties.

The injunction from DeGiusti, who was appointed to the federal bench in 2007 by U.S. President George W. Bush, means organizations that use GuideStone's health care plans will be protected for the foreseeable future from participating in provid-

ing abortion-causing drugs.

A trial date to make a final decision has not yet been set.

GuideStone president O.S. Hawkins said the ruling by the Oklahoma City federal judge "reflects common-sense legal principles, respects the rights of religious institutions to provide benefits consistent with their convictions, and provides

needed relief from the government's attempt to co-opt ministry health plans.

We appreciate Judge DeGiusti's timely protection of religious liberty and give thanks to God for this victory and for the many thousands who have made this a matter of prayer."

Hawkins noted that the injunction only concerns abortion-inducing drugs and devices, not other contraceptives.

"While our Catholic friends oppose contraceptive in most every form — a belief that they should be free to exercise under the First Amendment — our plans reflect the convictions of most Southern Baptists and evangelicals that the use of contraceptives is a matter of personal conscience," Hawkins said.

"Our plans will continue to provide coverage for the vast majority of FDA-approved drugs that do not cause abortions."

Russell D. Moore, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, said the injunction is a "first step toward a historic win for religious liberty."

"A government that can coerce the conscience is a government that has

see GUIDESTONE on p. 6

Tebow taking analyst role at ESPN

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Tim Tebow, the football standout much criticized for daring to

live out his Christianity in the NFL, has returned to football. This time he isn't a player, but rather an analyst for sports network ESPN.

The former University of Florida star quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner made his debut with the network Jan. 6 during pregame coverage of the NCAA national championship game between Auburn and Florida State.

Tebow's main duties will be with the new SEC Network

launching in August. He also will serve as a regular contributor on SportsCenter, ESPN Radio, and the ESPN's Heisman Trophy coverage, according to an ESPN news release.

"I am so excited that ESPN has given me this incredible opportunity," said Tebow, a member of First Church in Jacksonville, Fla. "When I was six years old I fell in love with the game of football and while I continue to pursue my dream of playing quarterback in the NFL, this is an amazing opportunity to be part of the unparalleled passion of college football and the SEC."

Tebow, who spent two seasons with the Denver Broncos and a year with the New York Jets, was cut from the New England Patriots during the 2013 preseason. Along the way, the

son of Christian missionaries held fast to his faith despite withering criticism from some of the game's biggest names, including former quarterback John Elway and sports commentator Merrill Hoge. Tebow has said he still desires to play quarterback in the NFL, although no team has shown interest in signing him. His contract with ESPN allows him to continue pursuing options to play in the NFL.

"Tim is a SEC icon with a national fan base and broad appeal," ESPN Vice President Justin Connolly said in the news release. "He will be a significant contributor to the compelling content we will deliver with the SEC Network. Tim brings a wealth of knowledge about the game, the conference and the passion among SEC fans."



TEBOW

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Dear Legislator ...

The 2014 session of the Mississippi Legislature is revving up to full speed, as proposed legislation moves to committees and will soon be coming up on a series of deadlines.

As anyone knows who even casually tracks the annual three-month sessions of the Legislature, many bills are introduced but relatively few make it into law. The complex set of checks and balances both inside the legislative process and in the broader branches of state government have a tendency to winnow the hundreds and hundreds of bills that are filed and pre-filed for each session.

Legislators have to absorb their share of criticism, cynicism, and caricature during their time under the hoary domes of the New Capitol in downtown Jackson. Some of the ridicule showered on them is likely deserved (by some of them, anyway), but a fair amount is not deserved.

They are, after all, our fellow Mississippians. For every citizen who couldn't find their way to either chamber in the Capitol but feels free to regularly slam legislators, there are at least a few of us who realize that most legislators are well-meaning people who must put aside their families, businesses, and community activities for one-quarter of each year to come to Jackson for the session.

That's no small sacrifice, so it would behoove us to occasionally tell them how much we appreciate the effort even as we loudly complain about what we perceive they are doing or not doing.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) has some helpful hints on how to make contact with legislators, how to get a point across without dooming favored legislation, and how to follow up on the progress of important measures:

■ The best communicating is done face-to-face. Make an appointment and be on time. Bring an outline of the one or two main issues you want to discuss. Be brief, recommend specific solutions, and leave a written summary of your important points.

It's fair to ask the legislator for his/her position on the bills in which you are interested. Don't take it personally if the legislator disagrees. Rather than argue,

discuss differences in a pleasant manner.

■ If a personal visit is not possible, write your legislator. Writing can save a legislator's time (a plus in your favor) and provides a record of your position on proposed legislation. Include your full name, address, and telephone number. The address for legislators while in session is P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215-1018. Individual e-mail addresses can be accessed at legislature.ms.gov.

■ Do your research. Know the bills about which you are writing, and include any specific information you have such as the bill number and details. Bill status can be attained while the legislature is in session by going to legislature.ms.gov.

■ Telephone calls do not substitute for personal visits and letters. When telephoning legislators, however, make efficient use of your time with them. Identify yourself and the bills you are for or against (again, one or two main issues is a good limit). Explain your reasoning and let them know how you want them to vote.

The telephone number for legislators while they are in session is (601) 359-3770. Just as with personal visits and letters, end the conversation by expressing your thanks for their time.

■ Citizens can request to testify before committees about bills they strongly support or oppose. Find out the name of the appropriate committee chairman and contact him/her as soon as possible. If given the opportunity to testify, get to the point quickly and be prepared to answer any questions legislators may have about your position.

The CAC, a ministry funded by the Mississippi Cooperative Program, stands ready to assist Mississippi Baptists who want to get involved in this grand process of self-governance we enjoy in our state and nation. They can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. Fax: (601) 292-3350. E-mail: rmecol-lum@christianaction.com.

Take the time to get involved, or else just be content with whatever comes out of the legislative pipeline. Those are really our only two choices.

Taking in the Bible

While all the spiritual disciplines are commended, Bible intake is the most foundational and most urgent. It is the indispensable discipline because it informs, fosters, and enables the other disciplines.

Evangelical Christians embrace the verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture. "Plenary" emphasizes the totality of Scripture and "verbal" underscores that the words themselves — not merely the authors' or their thoughts — are inspired.

All of Scripture is inspired of God, it is true, trustworthy and authoritative.

Bible intake, though singular in importance, is practiced through six primary steps. Practice these six simple steps and see your Christian life revolutionized.

■ **Hearing the Bible** is the most basic and common form of Scripture intake. It occurs when one sits under the ministry of the Word, whether preached or taught, received in person or through other mediums. Jesus pronounced blessing upon those who hear the Word of God and obey it (Luke 11:28), and Paul assigned the "public reading" of Scripture as an indispensable part of public worship to ensure God's people heard God's Word (1 Tim. 4:13).

■ **Reading the Bible**, at the personal level, is perhaps the most essential form of Bible intake. For the Christian, nothing should displace daily Bible reading. This includes both the macro-level of reading through books of the Bible and the micro-level of reading passages and verses repeatedly for greater familiarization and specific application.

■ **Studying the Bible** gives the Christian depth and strengthens his knowledge of God, thus enabling him to more ably teach and defend the faith. Every believer is called to be a Berean, searching the Scriptures and weighing teachers and doctrines by them (Acts 17:10–12). Such is expected of a disciple — or learner — of Christ, and the most faithful disciple will "be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

■ **Memorizing the Bible** is another proven method of Scripture intake. In so doing, one hides God's Word in his or her heart so as not to sin against Him (Ps 119:11). More-



Guest opinion
with Jason Allen

over, it follows the pattern of the Bible itself. Whether it is Jesus quoting the Scriptures to Satan or Paul reasoning from the Old Testament to his Jewish interlocutors, the Bible prioritizes "treasur[ing] Your word in my heart so that I may not sin against You" (Ps. 119:11).

■ **Meditating on the Bible** sounds like a mystic practice to some, but it is a biblical concept and a distinctly Christian activity. In fact, God links meditating on His Word with obedience and blessing (Josh. 1:8, Ps. 1:1–3). Meditating on God's Word is as simple as intentionally reflecting on a passage of Scripture, directly applying its truth to your life, and letting it marinate in your heart. Time devoted to lingering over Scripture is time well spent, as it surfaces implications for one's life and enables the living and active Word of God to convict of sin and inform the conscience (Heb. 4:12).

■ **Praying through the Bible** flows naturally from Scripture meditation. Giants of the faith, such as Martin Luther, Charles Spurgeon and especially George Mueller, made a habit of praying through Scripture. The Psalms especially lend themselves to prayer. In the Psalter, one finds the full range of human emotion, gains a panoramic view of God's Work and encounters the full pallet of biblical truth. Additionally, praying the Scriptures helps assure one's prayers are biblically sound and most pleasing to God.

In as much as the Christian life has a silver bullet, it is Bible intake. Therefore, practice these six simple methods of Bible intake and see your Christian life revolutionized.

Allen is president of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press, and has been edited for length.

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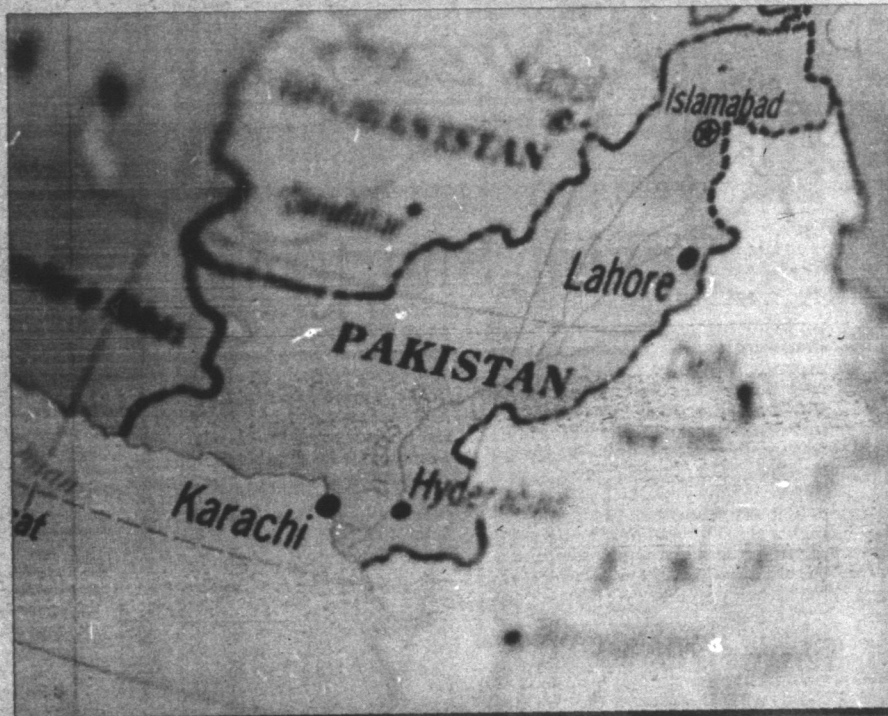
Pakistani Christians further endangered by court order

LAHORE, Pakistan (BP) — A Pakistani court's order that the death sentence be the exclusive sentence levied for insulting Islam's prophet will further endanger Christians and heighten the powers of the Islamic court that issued it, Morning Star News reported from sources inside the country.

While Christians fear that government compliance with the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) order on Dec. 4 to remove life imprisonment as a punishment for insulting Muhammad could usher in a new era of persecution, some critics say the greater concern is that it could broaden the powers of the controversial court.

Section 295-C of Pakistan's blasphemy laws calls for either death or life imprisonment for those convicted of insulting Muhammad. The Federal Shariat Court (FSC) has given the government several weeks to implement, through parliament, its order to remove life imprisonment and leave only death as blasphemy punishment.

The court's order comes less than three years after the assassinations of two top government officials quelled most criticism against the blasphemy laws.



ers. Those making a false accusation needed to face the death penalty because the words attributed to the accused were actually uttered by the accuser."

CII Chairman Maulana Muhammad Khan Sheerani said a majority of the CII members believe there was no need to amend the blasphemy laws.

"We don't want to discourage people from coming forward and lodging complaints against blasphemers," Sheerani said. "There's already a law — Section 194 of the Pakistan Penal Code — which envisages punishments for lodging a false FIR."

Sheerani, who believes the Federal Shariat Court's order removing life in prison for those convicted of blasphemy is in line with Islamic injunctions, said the FSC is the right forum to decide blasphemy cases.

"Laws relating to Islam should be decided by the FSC," Sheerani said. "Our senior clerics have already recommended that such cases be decided within three months. If the suspect is found innocent, the false accuser can be tried under the relevant section of the PPC [Pakistan Penal Code]."

New persecution

Napolean Qayyum, a Christian rights activist, predicted the FSC's order would usher in a new era of persecution.

"We have seen people taking the law into their own hands and deciding for themselves what the punishment should be," Qayyum said. "This ruling will only embolden elements who use the blasphemy laws to target the weak and marginalized communities of this country."

"How many more innocent lives would it take for the government to realize that it needs to do something to bring an end to this victimization?"

Attorney Aneeqa Maria, head of Christian rights group The Voice Society, told Morning Star News that Pakistan's blasphemy laws have no standards for evidence or for proof of intent, even though intent must be shown for a conviction, as well as no procedural safeguards to penalize those who make false allegations.

"They are a constant sword hanging over our heads, and no government has so far been able to stop their blatant misuse," Maria said. "Everyone knows how these laws are used as a tool for settling personal disputes, and now the FSC has taken this skeleton out of the closet after so many years."

Used by permission of Morning Star News (www.MorningStarNews.org), a California-based independent news service focusing on the persecution of Christians worldwide. Edited for style and clarity.

'Symbolic significance'

While the ruling could further encourage extremists to attack those they believe are insulting Muhammad, the FSC order may have little specific legal impact since judges have tended to issue death penalty sentences for such convictions anyway, Yasser Latif Hamdani, who practices law in superior courts, told Morning Star News, which monitors persecution of Christians worldwide.

"This is a guideline that the courts have already followed," Hamdani said. "The problem is that it has symbolic significance. It opens the door for the Federal Shariat Court to exercise greater influence on the legal system."

Hamdani said he hopes that the order would go to the Supreme Court's Shariat Appellate Bench, which he hopes "may take a more positive and liberal view."

Attorney Shoaib Salim of the Lahore High Court also expressed hope for the FSC order's reversal. "The FSC is only empowered to examine and determine whether the laws of the country comply with sharia [Islamic law] or not. The ultimate decision rests with the parliament."

Salim said it is unlikely the government would implement an order that would further incite religious hatred and persecution in Pakistan. The blasphemy laws often have been abused to settle personal vendettas as antagonists can easily level false accusations that ruin lives.

Since its establishment in 1980, the FSC has been the subject of criticism and controversy.

Court's history

Created as an Islamization measure by the military regime of Army Gen. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, who was serving as the country's president at the time, and subsequently protected under the controversial 8th Amendment, FSC opponents question its existence and usefulness.

The court, encompassing eight Muslim judges including three required to be Islamic law scholars, exercises jurisdiction over criminal courts deciding cases which involve punishments prescribed by Islamic writings.

Critics say the FSC merely duplicates the functions of superior courts and conflicts with the authority of parliament. They also allege that the way its judges are appointed and retained is tainted.

The FSC's decisions are binding on high courts as well as on subordinate judiciary. Appeals against its decisions lie with the Shariat Appellate Bench of the Supreme Court, consisting of three Muslim judges of the Supreme Court and two Islamic scholars appointed by the president.

Bloodshed

On Jan. 4, 2011, then-Punjab Gov. Salmaan Taseer's police bodyguard gunned him down for calling for a review of the

blasphemy laws and giving moral support to a woman sentenced to death for alleged blasphemy.

Two months later, Shahbaz Bhatti, Pakistan's federal minister for minority affairs and a Roman Catholic, was assassinated in Islamabad. Members of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, or Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility.

Bhatti had faced threats on his life for voicing opposition to the blasphemy laws.

Pakistan's top Islamist clerics, nevertheless, not only have pushed for greater FSC powers but declared they will not tolerate any amendments to the blasphemy laws.

Blasphemy fraudsters

A few days after nearly 150 Christian homes were burned to the ground in March by violent Muslim mobs in Lahore's Joseph Colony over allegations that a Christian youth had insulted Muhammad, top Sunni Islamist clerics led by Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Muneeb Rehman recommended that all persons accused of blasphemy be tried by the FSC.

Islamic clerics also have opposed the imposition of penalties for the accusers in such cases, arguing that no punishment exists for falsehood in other cases. Rehman has demanded that defamation of sacred religious personalities should be declared a crime under international law.

Punishment for false witness does have some advocates. After much lobbying, Pakistan Ulama

"This ruling will only embolden elements who use the blasphemy laws to target the weak and marginalized communities of this country. How many more innocent lives would it take for the government to realize that it needs to do something to bring an end to this victimization?"

Napolean Qayyum

Christian rights activist

Council Chairman Allama Tahir Ashrafi called in September for the country's top religious body, the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), to recommend the death sentence for those making false blasphemy accusations.

Such a law is necessary as a deterrent, Ashrafi said, but hardliners in the CII shot down his initiative.

"I have been relentlessly protesting the misuse of the blasphemy laws," Ashrafi said. "This is not only bringing a bad name to Pakistan but also the entire Muslim Ummah [community]. It's a pity that the other religious leaders failed to understand the importance of a strong deterrent for false accus-

One Saturday morning I was on the way to attend a funeral. I left in plenty of time to get there so that I could visit with the family and then be at the memorial service. Suddenly, I was thrown into a situation that I was not sure that I could get around. I was on a road where they were having a race. I did not know if it was a five mile, 10 mile or 26 mile marathon. There I was creeping along and making sure that I avoided the runners who were scattered out over the entire way that I was traveling.

Having been one of those folks who had participated in some of those races, I was interested in what they were doing and watching the faces of the people who appeared to be in excruciating pain. Running will do that to you. The track that they were following was one of those that would take you out and back to where you started. So all of the runners would run to the end of where they were supposed to go, and then they would turn, loop around and head back toward the starting line which then would be the finish line.

As I drove slowly along watching these folks run the race, there were places all along the way that if they wanted to they could just cut across and start back taking a shortcut and actually cheating on the race. As I was making progress, I saw one person running all alone who came to one of those cut across places. It was



Taking Shortcuts

probably two miles or so from where they were actually supposed to turn around. I watched as that runner took the shortcut and headed back to the finish line. Now I was certain that this runner was not going to be the winner, because where he was in the race he would not be in the first 200, 300 or maybe even in the first 500 people who finished. But that runner took a shortcut and headed back to the finish line.

I watched as there were people on the raceway all the way to the actual turn around. It looked like probably 100 to 150 people who this runner had moved in front of and that was not right. That was not fair or honest, but that is what that runner did. I did not

know what the circumstances of the runner might have been. Maybe the runner was sick, needed to get home or thought he was at the turning point. I did not slow down, stop, holler or tell the runner not to do that, because I did not know what was happening. If the runner just cut across, took a shortcut and cheated, I realized that the only person who was being hurt or at least the main person that was being hurt was that runner.

Don't study for the test and see what happens. Cheat on your diet and wrestle with how to explain that you have gained four pounds. Act as though you ran the entire race when you did not. Tell the doctor that you have been taking your medication

regularly as prescribed when you know that you rarely ever do. The person most affected when you take the shortcut is you.

Sadly, even all of the powerful instructive words of Scripture do not seem to make an imprint on our hearts. But the shortcut takers who ended up in a mess are everywhere. Judas thought that the shortcut to success in life was to take the 30 pieces of silver and look where it got him. Samson thought that he was the exception and that he could just play around with sin, only to find out that his life was a sad and sobering wreck. Peter thought that he could get himself out of a tight situation by simply telling a little white lie only to experience the sadness of his wrong and the heartbreak of taking a shortcut.

The truth is that there are no shortcuts to a successful life. There is no shortcut to healthy spiritual living. There is no shortcut to eternal life with God. The singular and only way to life abundant and life everlasting is through a personal, on-going committed relationship with Jesus Christ. To take any other turn, to run down any other road, to find a quick and easy approach is to miss it all together. You come to Jesus in confession, repentance and faith. You come to Jesus and He alone is the answer for your life.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

College News



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY inducted 28 new members into its Alpha Chi National College Honor Society on December 11. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Robert Ward, Silver Creek; Tiffany Newton, Vancleave; Alyssa Keyes, Ringgold, Ga., president; Rachel Grace Brown, Columbus, vice president; Madeline LeBoeuf, Collinsville, Okla.; Franknisha Hilbert, Magnolia; (second row, left to right) Belinda Gandy, Hattiesburg; Maurissa Harkins, Cedar-town, Ga.; Willa-Ann Renard, Cushing, Okla.; Nistha Pradhan, Lalitpur, Nepal; (third row, left to right) David Porter, Waynesboro; Erin Ford, Collins; Wing Siu, Fanling, Hong Kong; Caitlin Cooksey, Collinsville; Megan Bourne, Columbia; Ashley Huntington, Slidell, La.; (fourth row, left to right) Andrew Dorman, Hattiesburg; Mary Courtney, Lumberton; Brennan McDaniel, Destin, Fla.; Tanner Pace, Columbia; Dolores O'Mary, administrative assistant for language and literature; (back row, left to right) Everett Roark, assistant professor of biomedical sciences; Bennie Crockett, vice president for institutional effectiveness and long range planning; Read Diket, professor of art and education and Alpha Chi advisor; Garry Breland, vice president for academic affairs, and Randall Harris, professor biomedical sciences and Alpha Chi advisor. Not pictured: Kendal Banks, Brandon; Jana Barkley, Picayune; Justin Crosby, Hattiesburg; Miles Deaton, Hattiesburg; Tania Hoggins, Hattiesburg; Grant Jefcoats, Columbia; Vivian Okorie, Hattiesburg, and Maggie Paulk, Ruth.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins
and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my sins
and to restore my relationship
with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ
into my life. From this time on,
I want to live in a loving relationship
with Him. (I receive Christ as
my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 9, 2014

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

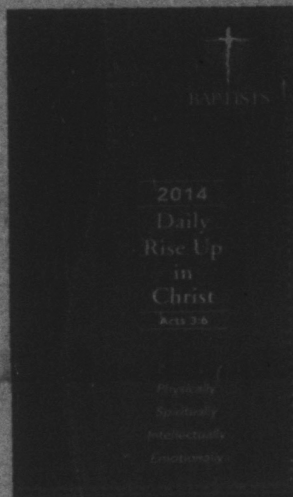
2014 DIARY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT CALENDAR

DAILY RISE UP IN CHRIST!

Discover daily listings of activities and scriptures in the 2014 Diary to develop your:

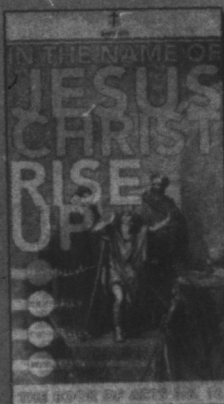
- Physical Health
- Spiritual Health
- Intellectual Health
- Emotional Health

Enjoy a year of being alive and well in Christ!



Churches can provide calendars for their church for \$1.50 each (includes a sticker & magnet) by contacting MBCB - Church Growth to place an order: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205
E-mail: sbell@mbcb.org
Phone: 601-292-3310 • FAX: 601-714-7424

HEALTH CONFERENCES



Plan to bring people from your church and community to participate in one of the Health Conferences planned throughout Mississippi.

February 28, 2014

6-8:45 PM

FBC, Jackson

Featured Speaker: Joni Eareckson Tada

Congregational Prayer
Steve Murphy, MBCB
Theme Interpretation/Introduction
Steve Stone, MBCB
Spiritual/Intellectual Health
Jon Futral, MBCB

Physical Health / DVD
Baptist Health Systems
Emotional Health
Ken Moschberger, FBC, Jackson
Featured Speaker
(see listing for each conference)

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:
Church Growth Dept., Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205
E-mail: sbell@mbcb.org
Phone: 601-292-3310 • FAX: 601-714-7424

February 21-22, 2014



Brandon Baptist Church
Brandon, MS

http://www.mbc.org/church_growth/dfm/arts.aspx

For more information contact the Discipleship/Family Ministry Dept. of the MBCB at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 283.

2014 OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

JANUARY
DEACON EMPHASIS
(this can be held anytime)

MARCH 3
PASTOR WORKSHOP
"Defending the faith"
Place: First Baptist Church, Starkville

MARCH 18
CHURCH BUILDING CONFERENCE/LIFEWAY
CHURCH ARCHITECTURE
Place: Skyroom, Baptist Building

APRIL 7 &
STATE MINISTRY ASSISTANTS' CONFERENCE
Place: Garaywa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton

APRIL 13
LIFE COMMITMENT SUNDAY

MAY 19-21
STATE PREACHING CONFERENCE
"Isaiah: Rise Up & Preach"

AUGUST 19-21
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND
OFFICE SKILLSHOPS FOR MINISTRY ASSISTANTS

CHURCH RELATED VOCATIONS BANQUETS:
*September 15: William Carey University
*September 18: Blue Mountain College
*October 13: Mississippi College

SEPTEMBER 23
PASTORS' WORKSHOP
"Defending the Faith"

OCTOBER 14
STUDENT DAY AT THE BAPTIST BUILDING

OCTOBER 27
MINISTERS' WIVES CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 27
BIVOCATIONAL/SMALL CHURCH MINISTERS
& WIVES COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 28
AMD/SEMINARY EXTENSION (SBC)
DIRECTORS BREAKFAST

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OH GOD, GIVE ME A BOLDNESS
BURDEN MY HEART TO TELL THEM
FOR PEOPLE AND ABOUT
YOU. AMEN.

2014 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

January 26-27, 2014
Northcrest
Baptist Church,
Meridian



Tim Futral



Kevin Hamm



Johnny Hunt



Jeff LaBorg



Fred Luter



Bob Pitman



Don Wilton

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defending the faith

Pastors & Student/College Ministers Workshop

Dates: March 3 & September 23

Time: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Location: March 3 - FBC, Starkville; Sept. 23 - FBC, Brandon

To equip pastors and student/college ministers with tools for defending the faith. Led by Dr. Robert Stewart, professor at NOBTS and Barton Ramsey, Student Minister at The Church at Trace Crossing.

Email: cwtaylor@mbcb.org for registration information.
Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305.

2014 MISSIONARY MOMENTS PRAYER GUIDE

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Center

IGNITE

Cost: \$48

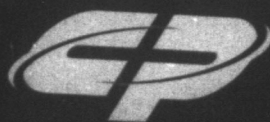
(includes program fee, t-shirt,
Garaywa meals, lodging in cabins)

Deadline to Register: February 12, 2014

For more information contact the Mississippi WMU
at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 319.

GuideStone

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TUESDAY
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Contact the Mississippi WMU office at
601-292-3319.



2014 singles conference

February 8, 2014
5 p.m.
Hathorn Baptist Church
143 Hathorn Rd.
Hwy 13 N
Columbia, MS

\$5 suggested donation
Reservations by February 6th
Judy Kittrell @ 601-765-4689

Speaker:

Jamie Womack, Mara Aquino, & A

Ginger Pierce, Columbia, MS (Chalk Artist)

Sponsored by the Discipleship/Family Ministry Dept. of the MBCB
1-800-748-1651 ext. 284

10TH ANNUAL Senior EVANGELISM RALLY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014

Northcrest Baptist Church, Meridian
(601-482-3498)

For more information contact
the Discipleship/Family Ministry Dept.
at 601-292-3284.

8:00 a.m.
Registration/Refreshments
8:15
Early Bird Special "Putting wif back into
witnessing"
8:45
General Assembly
9:00
Break-outs Aging Faithfully in Evangelism
Living in the Spirit
Putting the Wif Back into Evangelism
Shaping up to Share the Gospel
10:00
Break
(Refreshments provided by MS Baptist
Foundation)
10:45
Worship Celebration Rally
11:45
Adjourn

Pray this day for...

January 10 - 23, 2014

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God Reigns.'" Isaiah 52:7

Pray for: **Arnold & Susie Austin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through community & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard & Martha Beal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through financial administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **John & Claudia Brown**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Donna & Donald Brown**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach & church planting.

Pray for: **Karen Brown**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through nursing.

Pray for: **Matthew Burks**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Pamela Carlton**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard & Wanda Clark**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Guy & Cindy DeMars**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through hospitality coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

2014 single-parent retreat

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1

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1-800-748-1651, ext. 284,

or 601-292-3284

or dbrashier@mbcb.org

Miss Laura Wingo - 3/1/01
Parents: Floyd & Sylvia
South America

Mr. S. D. - 3/13/12
Parents: D & L
Restricted

Miss R. R. - 3/2/09
Parents: J & K
Restricted

Mr. Charlie S. - 3/13/05
Parents: J & C
Restricted

Miss Lufie Adair - 3/6/09
Parents: James & Mary
Margaret
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

Miss Emma Cox - 3/25/08
Parents: Jeremy & Kimberly
Restricted

Miss Erin DeMars - 3/6/95
Parents: Guy & Cindy
West Africa

Miss Heather Beaman -
3/28/92
Parents: Brad & Lenora
Last Frontier

Mr. Blake - 3/7/07
Parents: J & M
Restricted

Miss Grace Holyfield -
3/31/93
Parents: Michael & Patsy
European Peoples Group

Miss Hanna C. - 3/11/93
Parents: J. & M.
Restricted

Miss Emma Worthy - 3/28/03
Parents: Charlie & Shannon
Worthy
European Peoples Group

Miss Emma Grace Roberts -
3/11/00
Parents: Marty & Suzanne
European Peoples Group

Encourage an MK with a card!

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



HOUSE TOPS

BURDEN MY
HEART FOR PEOPLE &
GIVE ME A ABOUT
BOLDNESS TO TELL YOU
THEM AMEN

2014 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

January 26-27, 2014
Northcrest Baptist Church,
Meridian

2014 State Evangelism Conference
Northcrest Baptist Church, Meridian

January 26

6:00 p.m. Praise and Worship - Paul Davis, Northcrest
Fred Luter, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church,
New Orleans, LA

January 27

Monday Morning

9:15-9:30 a.m. Praise and Worship - Paul Davis, Northcrest
9:30-9:40 a.m. Welcome
9:40-10:25 a.m. Kevin Hamm, FBC, Gardendale, AL
10:25-10:40 a.m. Praise and Worship - Paul Davis, Northcrest
10:40-11:30 a.m. Bob Pitman, Muscle Shoals, AL
(Bob Pitman Ministries)
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Break for Lunch (on your own)

Monday Afternoon

1:30-1:45 p.m. Praise and Worship - Paul Davis, Northcrest
1:45-2:30 p.m. Johnny Hunt, FBC, Woodstock, GA
2:30-2:45 p.m. Praise and Worship - Paul Davis, Northcrest
2:45-3:30 p.m. Jeff LaBorg - FBC, Indian Trail, NC
(East Campus)
3:30-3:45 p.m. Praise and Worship - Paul Davis, Northcrest
3:45-4:30 p.m. Jim Futral, Executive Director/Treasurer,
MBCB
4:30-6:00 p.m. Dinner provided
Music - Northcrest

Monday Evening

6:15-6:30 p.m. Praise and Worship - Paul Davis, Northcrest
6:30-7:30 p.m. Don Wilton, FBC, Spartanburg, SC



Sponsored by the Evangelism Department
of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Jim Futral, Executive Director-Treasurer
Don Lum, Director, Evangelism Department

Evangelism Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Staff Changes



Bill Renick has recently retired after serving as pastor of **LEMOYNE BLVD. CHURCH** for 40 years. He is pictured with his wife, Joette.



OAK GROVE CHURCH, MERIDIAN, has called Albert McMullen as associate pastor - senior citizens director. Roy Dabbs, pastor.



In other Staff News:

► Curtis Askew, longtime Southern Baptist missionary, has retired to Duck Hill and may be contacted at 123 Devalda Dr., Duck Hill, MS 38935. (662) 565-2333.

BETHESDA CHURCH, TERRY, recently called Hoyt Ainsworth as pastor. He is shown with his wife Sandra, daughter Allora, and son Cody.

Just for the Record



RIENZI CHURCH; RIENZI, recently broke ground for a Family Life Center. The facility will house a gym, special events area, offices, and new Sunday School space.



THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS, PHILADELPHIA, recognizes its fall 2013 graduating class. Shown are Amanda McKee, Vivian Jernigan, and Elizabeth Johnson. The organization has also started an Introduction to Sewing class led by Wanda Jackson. Graduates of the sewing class include Shirley Young and Jennifer Alvarez.

GUIDESTONE

cont. from p. 1

overstepped its God-appointed bounds," Moore said. "We are thankful for Guidestone and the Gospel grit of President O.S. Hawkins. We're still early in this fight but this is good news."

This case is one of nearly 90 lawsuits brought against the abortion-drug mandate. Hawkins said Christians should continue to pray for these cases as they wind through the courts.

"Whether the cases relate to family businesses like Hobby Lobby or for nonprofit ministries like Guidestone, the religious freedom concerns cannot be overstated," Hawkins said. "It's time for Christians to stay informed, get involved and pray for wisdom for all in authority."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has urged a U.S. Supreme Court justice to reject a request by Roman Catholic nuns for the continuation of an injunction blocking enforcement of the Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate.

The DOJ memorandum filed Jan. 3 with Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor came in response to her Dec. 31 order granting a temporary injunction to the Little Sisters of the Poor in Denver and other Catholic organizations. DOJ also encouraged the Supreme Court not to grant review in the case.

For-profit and non-profit corporations have filed a total of 91 lawsuits against the mandate, according to the Becket Fund. Sotomayor's order brought to 19 the number of injunctions granted to non-profit groups that have challenged the mandate in court, the Becket Fund said. An injunction has been denied in only one suit brought by a non-profit.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

BIBL i O C I P H E R

NGB TJTO AKT CGO GN DEO REDT OGA

AG HT DLOLCATBTV FOAG, HFA AG

DLOLCATB, EOY AG SLJT KLC PLNT E

BEOCGD NGB DEOX.

DEBY ATO: NGBAX-NLJT

Clue: J = V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke 8:48

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via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



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MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, MENDENHALL, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Robert Mangum, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 115 Pinehill Circle, Mendenhall, MS 39114.

EAST PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A SENIOR PASTOR. Resumes can be sent to P.O. Box 304, Philadelphia, MS 39350 Attention: Pastor Search Committee

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN TUPELO, MS, HAS AN OPENING FOR DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY. We are seeking a candidate with experience in Children's Ministry and with a passion for leading children grades 1-6 into a relationship with Jesus Christ. If interested, please send your resume to rharrell@tbcupelo.org.

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THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF INVERNESS, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR. Send resume's to First Baptist Church P. O. Box 5, Inverness, MS 38753 or email at haycock@bellsouth.net.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SATARTIA IS PRAYING AND SEARCHING FOR A PIANIST. Please send information to FBC of Satartia P.O. Box 42 Satartia, Mississippi 39162.

PART-TIME YOUTH PASTOR SEARCH. Send resumes to: Calvary Baptist Church, Attn: Youth Committee P.O. Box 86 Fulton, MS 38843

CLASSIFIEDS

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Honor Jesus • John 17:1-8, 20-26

Jesus prayed, "I pray not only for these (the disciples in the room), but also for those who believe in Me through their message," John 17: 20 (HCSB). "Those who believe in Me through their message" includes me and you, if you are a believer in the 21st Century. I wish this was a red letter edition of the Bible to emphasize this is Jesus Himself praying for us.

I find it of particular interest that God's plan for sharing the Gospel with my contemporaries and me is so clearly explained in Jesus' short prayer for us. The message of the disciples has been delivered to us in written form in the New Testament as inspired and protected for us by the Holy Spirit. Also, God has provided us a human witness as Paul explained in 2 Timothy 2:2 (KJV): "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

An interesting side note about prayer in Jesus' faith community was the position in which they prayed. John tells us "Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said," John 17:1 (HCSB). Jesus took this posture of prayer to talk personally to His Father. Jesus said: Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son so that the Son may glorify You,"

John 17:1b (HCSB). This shows us that Jesus started this important prayer seeking to glorify God. Sounds a lot like, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven," Matthew 6:9-10 (KJV).

Jesus here makes an even stronger claim of power and authority at the start of this High Priestly Prayer. "You

(God the Father) put him (Jesus) in charge of everything human so he might give real and eternal life to all in his charge. And this is the real and eternal life," John 17:2-3 (The Message). "This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent—Jesus Christ," John 17:3 (HCSB). This is a repeat of the same bold claim Christ made in John 14:6-7 (HCSB): "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you know Me, you will also know my



Explore the Bible
with Don Hicks

Father. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him."

Jesus' claim that "I am ... the life" (John 14:6) is the same as "This is eternal life" in today's study passage. It is based on the basic biblical truth "the only true God" is Jesus' Father, the creator of the world. The Old Testament is very clear that God was from the beginning acting as creator: "In

the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," Genesis 1:1 (HCSB). Moses stressed t h e

uniqueness of Yahweh God in Deuteronomy 6:4 (KJV) "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord." The first of the Ten Commandments is, "Do not have other gods beside Me," Exodus 20:3 (HCSB).

Jesus makes this emphasis to glorify God the Father on this earth. He explains the height of this glory in verse 5, "Now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had

with You before the world existed," John 17:5 (HCSB).

At times, does this type of glory seem more than we as mortal human beings can understand? Even a casual reading of this part of John's Gospel show the 11 disciples were far from understanding the depths of these teachings of Jesus but they did believe. I find that very reassuring that God's truths are real and dependable even when my understanding is very weak and incomplete. Jesus said of the original disciples: "Now they know that all things You have given Me are from You, because the words that You gave Me, I have given them. They have received them and have known for certain that I came from You. They have believed that You sent Me," John 17:7-8 (HCSB).

The 17th chapter closes with the tremendous reassurance that God and Jesus will deal with us in unlimited love and through the Holy Spirit Jesus will actually come to live in us. "I made Your name known to them and will make it known, so the love You have loved Me with may be in them and I may be in them," John 17:26 (HCSB).

Jesus alive in us!

Hicks is a member of Brandon Church, Brandon.

A Life You Can't Live on Your Own • Romans 8:8-17, 26-27

Jesus knew that life would not be a bowl of cherries for his followers. Days before his crucifixion, He told his disciples, "It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (or Comforter) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you," (John 16:7, NKJV)

Paul knew that it was critical for the Romans, just as it is for us, to know about the power of the Holy Spirit to help believers walk victoriously through the obstacles of their lives. In Romans 8:8-9 he declared to them that those who are in the flesh (the sinner) cannot please God, and that if any have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. "But," he reassured them, "you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit if the Spirit of God dwells in you." Then he told them that if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwelt in them, that He Who raised up Christ from the dead would also give life to their mortal bodies.

Since the Holy Spirit, our divine Helper, is sent into our lives when we accept Jesus as our Savior, why do we as believers not rely on Him to be our Helper, but rather, we just get by doing

"the best we can?" Dr. Charles Stanley in his book, *The Wonderful Spirit-Filled Life*, said, "If the Christian life is simply a matter of doing our best, there was no need for God to send the Holy Spirit to help us." He also said, "God is looking for imperfect men and women who have learned to walk in moment-by-moment dependence on the Holy Spirit." We can only do that if we are truly born again and acknowledging the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Warren Wiersbe in his commentary said, "It is not enough for us to have the Spirit; the Spirit must have us! Only then can He share with us the abundant victorious life that can be ours in Christ. We have no obligation to the flesh, because the flesh has only brought trouble into our lives. We do have an obligation to the Holy Spirit, for it is the Spirit

who convicted us, revealed Christ to us, and imparted eternal life to us when we trusted Christ. Because He is the Spirit of Life, He can empower us to obey Christ, and He can enable us to be more like Christ." At the same time He can enable us to put to death the works of the flesh.

Not only does the Holy Spirit empower our walk, but He also affirms our relationship to the Father. In Roman culture the adopted child received all

the rights of a child born into the adoptive family. He became a full heir to his adoptive father's estate. The Life Application Bible says, "When a person becomes a Christian, he gains all the privileges and responsibilities of a child in God's family. One of these outstanding privileges is being led by the Spirit. We may not always feel like we belong

to God, but the Holy Spirit is our witness. His inward presence reminds us of who we are and encourages us with His love."

Finally, the Spirit strengthens our prayers. It is He Who prompts us to pray and leads us as we pray. Even when we don't know how to pray, the Spirit will pray with us and for us. We are not left to our own devices to cope with problems we face. We as the sons and daughters of the living God are led by His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Wisdom for He is the Spirit of Christ sent here to help us in our journey. He stands ready, willing and able to do what He was sent to do—to be our Helper. Our part is to give Him the reins of our lives.

"The Holy Spirit's power cannot be harnessed. His power cannot be used to accomplish anything other than the Father's will. He is not a candy dispenser. He is not a vending machine. He is not a genie waiting for someone to rub His lamp the right way. He is Holy God." (Stanley, *The Wonderful Spirit-Filled Life*)

Foster is a member of Murphy Creek Church, Louisville.

Bible Studies for Life
with Patsy Foster



TADA

cont. from p. 1

you and your church to join us for this special evening.

The Health Conference on Feb. 28 will begin at 6 p.m. at First Church, Jackson, and conclude at 8:45 p.m. In addition to Tada, who will touch on the theme of emotional health during her presentation, the conference includes:

■ Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, speaking on the themes of spiritual and intellectual health.

■ Barbie D. Sullivan, an obstetrics/gynecology physician at The Woman's Clinic in Jackson and Baptist Health Systems, Inc., speaking on the theme of physical health.

■ L. Lavon Gray, minister of music and worship at First Church, Jackson.

The conference is being sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board through the Mississippi Cooperative Program, Baptist Health Systems, Inc., in Jackson, and Summit Counseling of First Church, Jackson. There is no charge for admission.

For more information, contact Sandy Bell, MBCB Church Growth Division, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3310 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 310. E-mail: sbell@mccb.org.

Just for the Record



The children's choir of **BUNKER HILL CHURCH, COLUMBIA**, presented Carols of Christmas, directed by Sissy Wilks and Carmen Duncan Dec. 8.

HOLLANDALE CHURCH, HOLLANDALE, held a women's Christmas party.



The choir of **BLUFF SPRINGS CHURCH, PIKE COUNTY**, presented their musical I'll Be Home For Christmas Dec. 22.

The GA's from **NEW HEIGHTS CHURCH, SUMMIT**, held a bake sale and raised \$800 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The girls are shown with their leader, Jennifer Miller.



The youth of **GOODWATER CHURCH, MEEHAN**, presented the cantata, Christmas This Year. They are shown with youth choir directors Ray & Rhonda Chapman and youth ministers, Chet & Janna Nicklas.

In other Church News:

➤ **Neshoba Church, Union**, will offer their January Bible Study Jan. 12 - 15, 6:30 p.m. Kevin Meadors, leader.

➤ **Cash Church, Lena**, will celebrate M.L. & Jeanette Wallace's retirement after 53 years of service with a reception Jan. 11, from 1 - 3 p.m.

➤ **Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn**, will host the Northeast MS Pastors Conference Jan. 13. Brad Ball and Jim Futral, speakers.

➤ **Calvary Church, Vicksburg**, led a summer VBS at the Salvation Army, and later organized their food pantry and cleaned their building.

➤ **Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle**, collected food items to be given to the needy at Christmas. The goal was to collect 20 boxes, but the church collected 30 boxes. An outside source donated an additional 30 turkeys.

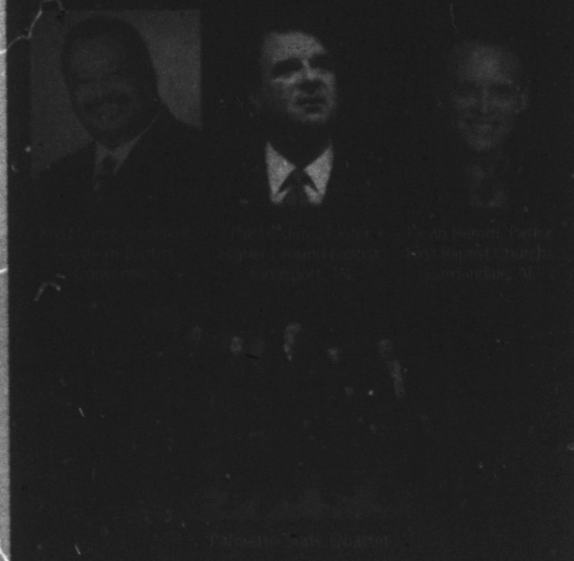


The children of **MILITARY CHURCH, SUMRALL**, presented a Christmas play, The Light Has Come, Dec. 15. Liz Mauldin, Candie Coulter, and Emily Brown, directors.

MID SOUTH MEN'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

February 21-22, 2014

First Baptist Church
Bartlett, Tennessee



Go to myfaithbaptist.org
for registration and information.